

REMARKS

Claim 33 stands objected to for a minor informality. It is respectfully submitted that the enclosed amendment obviates the alleged informality. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim 31 is independent and stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maydan et al. '612 in view of Zhang et al. '961 ("Zhang") and Downey et al. '281. This rejection is respectfully traversed because newly cited Zhang is not prior art to the present application. The filing date of Zhang is March 8, 2004, whereas the effective filing date of the present application is October 9, 2003 based on the foreign priority document (JP2003-350368). Attached hereto is the certified English translation of the priority document (JP2003-350368) to perfect Applicants' claim to foreign priority.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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